

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CASABL 00984 121753Z

60

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-04 INR-05

LAB-01 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AGR-05 SWF-01 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /077 W

----- 078198

R 121130Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3130

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L C A S A B L A N C A 9 8 4

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, MO

SUBJECT: UMT CAMPAIGNS AGAIN FOR HIGHER WAGES

1. SUMMARY: UMT, MOROCCO'S LARGEST LABOR UNION, HAS LAUNCHED ITS ANNUAL CAMPAIGN FOR WAGE HIKES AND OTHER BENEFITS. WHILE MOST STRIKES THUS FAR HAVE BEEN OF LIMITED SCOPE, A THREE-DAY LOCKOUT AT A LARGE SUGAR REFINERY IN CASABLANCA PUT OVER TWO THOUSAND WORKERS TEMPORARILY OUT OF WORK. NO PROTRACTED STRIKES IN KEY AREAS OF ECONOMY ARE ANTICIPATED BY UMT LEADERSHIP. FOR FIRST TIME IN RECENT YEARS SMALL ISTIQLAL UNION (UGTM) MAY BE CHALLENGING UMT IN SOME AREAS. BECAUSE CONSUMER PRICES DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE RISEN AS SHARPLY AS THEY DID IN THE FALL OF 1973, INFLATION SEEMS TO BE A SOMEWHAT LESS EMOTIONAL ISSUE THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. UNION MAROCaine DU TRAVAIL (UMT) LAUNCHED ITS TRADITIONAL FALL STRIKE SEASON AFTER END-OF-RAMADAN HOLIDAYS MID-OCTOBER. MEETING OF MEMBER UNIONS IN CASABLANCA ON OCTOBER 23 COORDINATED DRIVE, WHICH HAS AS MAIN THEME INFLATION AND DECLINE IN PURCHASING POWER OF WORKERS. PRINCIPAL GOALS OF MEMBER UNIONS SIMILAR TO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CASABL 00984 121753Z

LAST YEAR: STRAIGHT SALARY INCREASES, DOUBLING OF MINIMUM WAGE

TO 500 DIRHAM (ABOUT\$115) PER MONTH, INCREASES IN VARIOUS ALLOWANCES AND HOUSING LOANS.

3. THUS FAR MOST STRIKES HAVE BEEN OF SHORT DURATION OR HAVE INVOLVED LIMITED NUMBER OF WORKERS. EXCEPTIONS HAVE BEEN IN TEXTILE, PRINTING AND MOST NOTABLY SUGAR INDUSTRIES. IN UNRELATED DISPUTES, TWO MAJOR SUGAR REFINERIES IN CASABLANCA AND ONE IN BENI MALLAL WERE STRUCK LAST WEEK. THE IMPORTANT COSUMAR REFINERY IN CASABLANCA, EMPLOYING OVER TWO THOUSAND WORKERS, WAS CLOSED FOR THREE DAYS BY GOVERNOR DUE TO INDUSTRIAL SABOTAGE AND SOME VIOLENCE. NEXT MAJOR TARGET WILL BE CASABLANCA CITY BUS LINE.

4. UMT LEADERSHIP DOES NOT EXPECT ANY SERIOUS PROTRACTED STRIKES TO EMERGE FROM CURRENT CAMPAIGN. UNION LEADERS ARE ALL TOO WELL AWARE THAT GOM WILL NOT TOLERATE LENGTHY STRIKES THAT WOULD SEVERELY THREATEN MOROCCAN ECONOMY, AND VITAL PHOSPHATE MINING AND RAILROAD SECTORS ARE QUIESCENT.

5. THERE ARE SCATTERED EARLY INDICATIONS THAT UNION GENERAL DES TRAVAILLEURS MORACAINS (UGTM), RELATIVELY SMALL ISTIQLAL LABOR FEDERATION, MAY BE POSING SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO UMT IN SOME AREAS. VEILED REFERENCES TO "PUPPET UNION" IN UMT PRESS, UMT-UGTM SCUFFLES AT COSUMAR REFINERY, DISPUTES OVER WORKER DELEGATES AND A FEW FRANK PRIVATE COMMENTS BY UMT OFFICIALS MAY INDICATE PERCEPTABLE SHIFT IN WORKER LOYALTIES. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SPOT A TREND AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, AND UMT REMAINS FAR AND AWAY DOMINANT LABOR FORCE IN MOROCCO.

6. COMMENT: VIEWED FROM CASABLANCA, INFLATION(WHILE STILL AN IMPORTANT INTERNAL ISSUE) IS NOT THE EMOTIONAL ISSUE IT WAS IMMEDIATELY AFTER SHARP POST-RAMADAN PRICE INCREASES IN 1973. WHILE THE CASABLANCA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX IS AT ITS HIGHEST LEVEL EVER, AUTHORITIES SEEM TO HAVE DON A BETTER JOB AT KEEPING PRICE INCREASES IN CHECK THIS YEAR THAN LAST. THE RESULT IS A SOMEWHAT LESS INCENDIARY LABOR CLIMATE. END COMMENT.
BRUBECK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAGES, LABOR OBJECTIVES, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CASABL00984
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740326-0220
From: CASABLANCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741151/aaaabrnh.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UMT CAMPAIGNS AGAIN FOR HIGHER WAGES
TAGS: ELAB, MO, UMT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005